


COUNTRY DATA: LEBANON: Information from the CIA World Factbook

INTRODUCTION

Following World War I, France acquired a mandate over the northern portion of the former Ottoman Empire province of Syria. The French separated out the region of Lebanon in 1920, and granted this area independence in 1943. A lengthy civil war (1975-1990) devastated the country, but Lebanon has since made progress toward rebuilding its political institutions. Under the Ta'if Accord - the blueprint for national reconciliation - the Lebanese established a more equitable political system, particularly by giving Muslims a greater voice in the political process while institutionalizing sectarian divisions in the government. Since the end of the war, Lebanon has conducted several successful elections. Most militias have been reduced or disbanded, with the exception of Hizballah, designated by the US State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization, and Palestinian militant groups. During Lebanon's civil war, the Arab League legitimized in the Ta'if Accord Syria's troop deployment, numbering about 16,000 based mainly east of Beirut and in the Bekaa Valley. Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000 and the passage in September 2004 of UNSCR 1559 - a resolution calling for Syria to withdraw from Lebanon and end its interference in Lebanese affairs - encouraged some Lebanese groups to demand that Syria withdraw its forces as well. The assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq HARIRI and 22 others in February 2005 led to massive demonstrations in Beirut against the Syrian presence ("the Cedar Revolution"), and Syria withdrew the remainder of its military forces in April 2005. In May-June 2005, Lebanon held its first legislative elections since the end of the civil war free of foreign interference, handing a majority to the bloc led by Sa'ad HARIRI, the slain prime minister's son. In July 2006, Hizballah kidnapped two Israeli soldiers leading to a 34-day conflict with Israel in which approximately 1,200 Lebanese civilians were killed. UNSCR 1701 ended the war in August 2006, and Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) deployed throughout the country for the first time in decades, charged with securing Lebanon's borders against weapons smuggling and maintaining a weapons-free zone in south Lebanon with the help of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The LAF in May-September 2007 battled Sunni extremist group Fatah al-Islam in the Nahr al-Barid Palestinian refugee camp, winning a decisive victory, but destroying the camp and displacing 30,000 Palestinian residents. Lebanese politicians in November 2007 were unable to agree on a successor to Emile LAHUD when he stepped down as president, creating a political vacuum until the election of LAF Commander Gen. Michel SULAYMAN in May 2008 and the formation of a new unity government in July 2008. Legislative elections in June 2009 again produced victory for the bloc led by Sa'ad HARIRI, but a period of prolonged negotiation over the composition of the cabinet ensued. A national unity government was finally formed in November 2009 and approved by the National Assembly the following month. In January 2010, Lebanon assumed a nonpermanent seat on the UN Security Council for the 2010-11 term.

GEOGRAPHY

Location	Middle East, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Israel and Syria.
Area	10,400 sq km
Climate	Mediterranean; mild to cool, wet winters with hot, dry summers; Lebanon mountains experience heavy winter snows.
Natural Resources	Limestone, iron ore, salt, water-surplus state in a water-deficit region, arable land.
Total Renewable Water	4.8 cu km (1997)

Resources	
Freshwater Withdrawal	1.38 cu km/yr (33%/1%/67%)
Natural Hazards	Dust storms, sandstorms.
Environmental Issues	Deforestation; soil erosion; desertification; air pollution in Beirut from vehicular traffic and the burning of industrial wastes; pollution of coastal waters from raw sewage and oil spills.
PEOPLE	
Population	4,125,247 (July 2010 est.)
Ethnic Groups	Arab 95%, Armenian 4%, other 1% Note: many Christian Lebanese do not identify themselves as Arab but rather as descendents of the ancient Canaanites and prefer to be called Phoenicians.
Religions	Muslim 59.7% (Shia, Sunni, Druze, Isma'ilite, Alawite or Nusayri), Christian 39% (Maronite Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Melkite Catholic, Armenian Orthodox, Syrian Catholic, Armenian Catholic, Syrian Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Chaldean, Assyrian, Copt, Protestant), other 1.3% Note: 17 religious sects recognized.
Languages	Arabic (official), French, English, Armenian.
Literacy Rate	87.4%
Major Infectious Diseases	HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate: 0.1% (2007 est.) 
GOVERNMENT	
Type	Republic
Independence	22 November 1943 (from League of Nations mandate under French administration).
Constitution	23 May 1926; amended a number of times, most recently in 1990 to include changes necessitated by the Charter of Lebanese National Reconciliation (Ta'if Accord) of October 1989.
Legal System	Mixture of Ottoman law, canon law, Napoleonic code, and civil law; the constitutional court reviews laws only after they have been passed; has not accepted compulsory International Court of Justice jurisdiction.
ECONOMY	
Agricultural Products	Citrus, grapes, tomatoes, apples, vegetables, potatoes, olives, tobacco; sheep, goats.
Industries	Banking, tourism, food processing, wine, jewelry, cement, textiles, mineral and chemical products, wood and furniture products, oil refining, metal fabricating.
Import commodities	Petroleum products, cars, medicinal products, clothing, meat and live animals, consumer goods, paper, textile fabrics, tobacco, electrical machinery and equipment, chemicals.

Import Partners	France 10.84%, US 9.44%, Syria 9.42%, Italy 7.01%, China 6.91%, Germany 5.43%, Ukraine 4.55%, Turkey 4.5% (2009).
Export Commodities	Jewelry, base metals, chemicals, miscellaneous consumer goods, fruit and vegetables, tobacco, construction minerals, electric power machinery and switchgear, textile fibers, paper.
Export Partners	Syria 26.04%, UAE 14.46%, Saudi Arabia 6.87%, Switzerland 5.97% (2009).
Per Capita GDP	\$13,100 (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	28% (1999 est.)

*CITATIONS: All information included above is extracted from the CIA World Factbook except where noted.

COUNTRY: Lebanon

General	
Life Expectancy at Birth (in years)	72.4 years
Average number of years in School (in years)	NA
Gross National Income Per Capita (In US Dollars)	\$13,475
Gender Inequality	
Female Seats in Parliament (%)	4.7%
Population with at least a Secondary Education Female (% Of 25 and older)	NA
Population with at least a Secondary Education Male (% Of 25 and older)	NA
Labor Force Participation Female (%)	24.1%
Labor Force Participation Male (%)	74.8%
Births Attended by Skilled Health Professionals (%)	98%
Poverty	
Population surviving on \$1.25 per day (%)	NA
Empowerment	
Number of Journalists Imprisoned	0
Corruption Victims (% of people who face a bribe situation in the last year)	30%
Political Engagement (% percent of people who voiced opinion to public officials)	12%

Sustainability	
Fossil Fuels as Primary Energy Source (%)	93%
Renewable Resources as Primary Energy Source (%)	5%
Population without Access to Water (%)	0%
Population Without Access to Sanitation Services (%)	NA
Population affected by natural disasters (% between 2000-2009)	.05%
Human Security	
Number of Refugees leaving this country	NA
Number of Internally Displaced People in This Country	NA
Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)	NA
Demographics	
Urban Residents (% of total Population)	87.2%
Health	
HIV Prevalence in Female Youth (% ages 15-24)	.1%
HIV Prevalence in Male Youth (% ages 15-24)	.1%
HIV Prevalence in Adults (% ages 15-49)	.1%
Other	
Official Development Assistance Per Capita (in US dollars)	\$259.90
Population without Electricity (%)	0%

Lebanon's Public Expenditure

